

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: May 14

Agenda Item: Classification of Exotic Wildlife ARM: Pacific White Shrimp and African Fur Rat

Division: Enforcement/Fisheries

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background

To be legally imported into Montana, exotic wildlife must be classified. The Classification Review Committee evaluates petitions for such classifications. The committee—which includes FWP, the Montana Departments of Livestock, Agriculture, and Public Health and Human Services, a representative of the exotic pet trade, and a citizen with an interest in fish and wildlife makes recommendations to the commission to classify exotic wildlife either as non-controlled, controlled, or prohibited. Recommendations are based on:

- A. the environmental impacts caused by the animal if it is released or escapes from captivity, including ecological and economic impacts;
- B. the risk the animal would pose to health or safety of the public, wildlife or agriculture; and
- C. the ability to readily control and contain the animal in captivity.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The commission may, after appropriate public input, adopt by rule a list of noncontrolled, controlled, and prohibited exotic wildlife. If approved, the proposed rule changes will be published for public comment.

Alternatives and Analysis

The commission can decide not to propose the recommendations by the Classification Review Committee.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

The Classification Review Committee recommends that the commission propose rules to allow for the following classification of exotic wildlife:

- **Controlled**—The following exotic wildlife may be possessed in Montana only with a Controlled Species permit from FWP:
 - 1. *Penaeus (Litopenaeus) vannamei*.-Pacific White Shrimp
- **Prohibited**—The importation, transportation or possession of the following species of live wildlife or hybrids thereof, including viable embryos or gametes, is prohibited.
 - 1. *Mastomys natalensis*-African Soft Fur Rat

Proposed Motion

I move that the commission propose amendments to the classification of exotic species Administrative Rules of Montana as recommended by the classification review committee.